Notice to M/s. Seagram Mfg.

4113. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2738 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 2002 and state :

(a) the latest position in regard to the two show cause notices issued to M/s. Seagram Mfg. limited for evasion of customs duty and also indicate the amount of customs duty and penalty received so far; and

(b) what is the progress so far made in respect to criminal complaint filed against the company and its officials in the said case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Two Show-Cause-Notices were issued to M/s Seagram Mfg. Limited. One was issued by DRI, New Delhi on 19-12-2000 demanding duty of Rs. 37.97 crores and another was issued by the Commissioner of Customs, New Delhi demanding duty of Rs. 12.08 crores. Both the cases were adjudicated by a common order dated 31-5-2002, by Commissioner of Customs, New Delhi and an amount of duty of Rs. 41.7 crores was confirmed. On appeal, Customs and Excise Appellate Tribunal has set aside the order and remanded the case to the Commissioner for fresh consideration. In the meanwhile, the Commissioner of Customs, New Delhi has enforced the bank guarantees worth Rs. 9.77 crores in the case. *De-novo* proceedings are in progress.

(b) The prosecution against the firm and four of its officials has been filed before ACMM, Patiala House, New Delhi and the next date of hearing before the trial court is 28-5-2003.

Premium collection by LIC

4114. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the premia collections of LIC during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the premia collections in 2002 have fallen short;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a decline in premia collections;

(d) whether it is because of lesser number of LIC agents in the Corporation; and

(e) whether the LIC is thinking of increasing the number of agents to tighten its hold in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b)